

Extract from a letter dated April 18th, 1893, from Edward W. Penfield,
705 Phenix Building, Chicago, Ill.

While at the City of Mexico I saw in the store of F. P. Hoeck, #12,
San Francisco street, an agatized head of an Aztec Indian. This piece of
stone was found in the state of Agnas Calientes, Mexico, in 1804, above
ground. The "head" is about 7 inches long, $4\frac{1}{2}$ inches wide, and 4 inches
thick from front to back. The tongue, eyes, nose, and one ear, are very
good. The mouth is 2 inches broad and open $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches. The tongue is thick
and protrudes over an inch from where it joins the roof and lower part of the
mouth, though it does not stick out beyond the upper lip. The right side of
the face is pushed down somewhat, and distorted, as if by a weight. This
"head" was mentioned by a German naturalist, who visited this country
(Mexico) in the early part of this century, in his book of "Logical tables
arranged according to latest discoveries with notes," by L. G. Karsten.
Hoeck, who has this head at his store, wishes to sell it for \$50.00 (Mexi-
can), which is equal to about \$32.00 New York exchange, on the present
basis of money. He might be induced to sell for less, though he told me
he was simply the agent for another party. He said he would be willing to
send it to you subject to inspection (inspection to be made, I suppose, in
the Express Co's. office in New Haven). You would probably have to pay
express charges both ways if you returned the "head," of two or three dol-
lars. I thought when I saw the head that Prof. Marsh would be interested
in this matter and that he would be a judge of its value, if it has any.
Hoeck has a document, old and timeworn, concerning the "head," which goes
with the head. You might ask Hoeck to send you the document for inspection.
If Prof. Marsh should think of buying the "head" for the museum he would
of course pay for it only after its safe delivery to him in New Haven.

Hoeck's price to Prof. Marsh should include express charges. If Hoeck was a Mexican I should expect to get the head for about 20.00 Mexican money, his first price being fifty, but he is an American and you may not be able to beat him down. Remember that fifty pesos (his price) equals \$32.00 New York exchange. I personally did not care to buy this head as I was in doubt as to its value.